

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00

ERDE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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S E C R E T MOSCOW 3569

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJ: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF 77TH PLENARY, 3/9/76

ROUND VI - TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 111

1. SUMMARY: STOESSEL AND MOROKHOV REVIEWED RESPECTIVE POSITIONS CONCERNING STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. STOESSEL POINTED OUT "DEPLORABLY SLOW PACE" DURING LAST TWO AND A HALF WEEKS AND SUGGESTED PARALLEL APPROACH TO DEAL WITH SEVERAL ISSUES AT SAME TIME. SUMMARIZED EQUIPMENT ISSUE AND SAID FIRM BASIS FOR SOLUTION NOW EXISTED. MOROKHOV REVIEWED SOVIDG POSITION ON EQUIPMENT EXAMINATION, THRESHOLD YIELD FOR ACTIVATING LOCAL SEISMIC NET (LSN), RANGE OF LSN DEPLOYMENT, MAXIMUM GROUP AGGREGATE YIELD, AND EXPLOSIVE CANISTER LENGTHS GREATER THAN TEN METERS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED LACK OF PROGRESS, BUT REJECTED US PROPOSAL TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ISSUES IN PARALLEL. END SUMMARY.

2. STOESSEL REVIEWD STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS (SEPTTEL) AS REFLECTED IN COMPARATIVE US AND SOVIET DRAFT PROTOCOL TEXT. HE POINTED OUT THERE HAS BEEN NO OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE SINGLE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE IN TWO AND HALF WEEKS AND THAT CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ISSUES OUTSTANDING AND SUGGESTED A PARALLEL APPROACH TO DISCUSS SEVERAL ISSUES AT SAME TIME. HE ASKED FOR SOVIET VIEWS ON OBSERVER ACCESS, US PROPOSAL FOR POST-EXPLOSION CHANCE PROCEDURE

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ON EQUIPMENT VERIFICATION, AND USE OF RADIOS WITH LSN.

3. MOROKHOV REHEARSED SOVIET POSITION ON YIELD THRESHOLD TO ACTIVATE LSN (1 MT), DEPLOYMENT RANGE FOR THE LSN (10 KM), EQUIPMENT ISSUE, AND EXPLOSIVE CANISTERS LONGER THAN TEN METERS. MOROKHOV REPEATED SOVIET PROPOSAL TO REDUCE LSN THRESHOLD TO 700 KT IF US ACCEPTS 2 MT AS MAXIMUM GROUP AGGREGATE YIELD. HE INSISTED THAT 10 KM RANGE OF DEPLOYMENT OF LSN AND TELESEISMIC NET GAVE ADEQUATE CAPABILITY TO DETECT COLLATERAL EVENT AND US INSISTENCE ON 20 KM RANGE WILL COMPLICATE ISSUE AND PREVENT AGREEMENT. HE SAID NEW US PROPOSAL TO USE POST-EXPLOSION CHANCE PROCEDURE FAILS TO BRING SIDES CLOSER TOGETHER ON EQUIPMENT ISSUE AND CREATES SUSPICION AND ANXIETY ON SOVIET SIDE. HE SAID SOVIET SIDE PREPARED TO DISCUSS QUESTION ONLY AFTER US PROVIDES TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR WHY US "ABANDONED" POSITION ON POST-SHOT RETENTION BY HOST. REGARDING USE OF CANISTER LONGER THAN TEN METERS, HE SAID US HAS NOT RESPONDED TO SEVERAL UNOFFICIAL SOVIET PROPOSALS TO HANDLE THIS PROBLEM. HE SAYS SOVIETS AWAITING US RESPONSE. HE REJECTED US PROPOSAL TO HANDLE SEVERAL ISSUES IN PARALLEL CLAIMING US CHANGING POSITIONS WITHOUT CONVINCING REASONS HAS DELAYED PROGRESS, AND THAT WE MUST WORK ISSUES SINGLY BECAUSE THEY ARE INTER-RELATED. FOR EXAMPLE, WHY DISCUSS DESIGNATED PERSONNEL RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS WHEN IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT EQUIPMENT THEY WILL BE PERMITTED TO USE. HOWEVER, HE DID SAY US COULD ASK ANY QUESTIONS THEY WISHED, BUT SOVIETS WILL ONLY DISCUSS ISSUES IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER. HE SAID RADIOS WITH LSN UNDER STUDY, BUT SO LONG AS INTEGRAL TO LSN, HE EXPECTED NO PROBLEM REQUIRING THOROUGH DISCUSSION.

4. SOVIETS AGREED TO MEET TOMORROW, MARCH 10, BUT SAID THEY HAD NOTHING MORE TO SAY ON EQUIPMENT ISSUE UNTIL US EXPLAINED THE REASON FOR "ABANDONING" OUR PROPOSAL; THEY WERE AWAITING US PROPOSALS.

5. BEFORE MEETING, BUCHHEIM TOLD TIMERBAEV THAT US SIDE REQUESTING MEETING THIS AFTERNOON TO COMPLETE WORK ON LEGAL ARTICLES. TIMERBAEV SAID HE COULD NOT FIND LAPTEV. BUCHHEIM SAID MEETING REQUESTED WITH OR WITHOUT LAPTEV

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AND THAT MATHESON WOULD BE LEAVING MOSCOW MARCH 10, HIS TIME BEING LARGELY WASTED WHILE LAPTEV IS EITHER ON HOLIDAY OR UNAVAILABLE. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, TIMERBAEV SAID MEETING WITH LAPTEV SCHEDULED FOR 3:30 PM THIS DAY.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MEETING REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW03569
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760089-0181
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760380/aaaacsrm.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF 77TH PLENARY, 3/9/76 ROUND VI - TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 111
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006